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Directorate of Intelligence

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Near East and South Asia Review

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Supplement 25 April 1986

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NESA NESAR 86-010JX 25 April 1986

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	Near East and South Asia Review		25 X 1
	Supplement		
	25 April 1986	Page	
Articles			25X1
	Afghanistan in March	5	25X1 25X1
	Soviet and Afghan forces continued efforts to see resupply and reinforcement activity during the winter, but the guerrillas probably have sufficient support the expected upsurge in fighting in ear	last month of the ent supplies to	25X1
	Some articles are preliminary views of a subje the contents normally will be coordinated as a offices within CIA. Occasionally an article wil of a single analyst: these items will be designat	ppropriate with other l represent the views	
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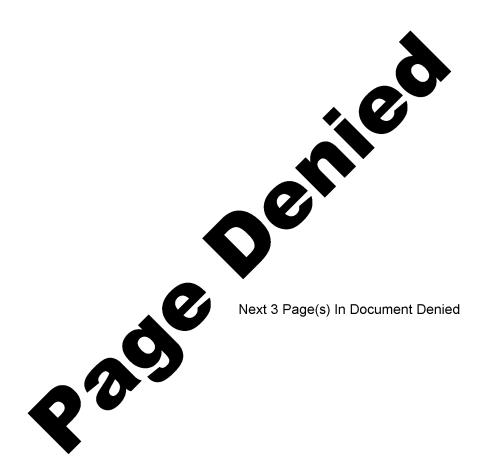
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Afghanistan in March	25X1
Algumistan in Availon	23/(1
Soviet and Afghan forces continued efforts to stem	Soviet and Afghan forces made no appreciable
insurgent resupply and reinforcement activity during	headway during March against insurgents in the
the last month of winter. Poor weather occasionally	Herat area. Sources of the US Embassy in Kabul
interfered with operations, mostly curbing air support	claim that fighting west of the city was particularly heavy early in the month.
from Bagram. The Afghan army completed another series of semi-independent combat operations—their	25X1
largest yet—in the vicinity of Jalalabad, Gardeyz,	
and Herat evidently without encountering significant	
resistance, although insurgent activities were at a	
moderate level during the month. The guerrillas probably have sufficient supplies to support the	
expected upsurge in fighting in early spring.	25X1
Widespread Soviet Operations Continue Soviet operations in three border provinces—Paktia,	
Nangarhar, and Gardeyz—focused largely on	
attempting to cut guerrilla supply routes.	25X1
	25X1
Sources of the US Embassy in Kabul	25X1
reported that Soviet units from Kabul conducted a	
five-day sweep in the Lowgar Valley along the road to	
Ghazni starting on 5 March. Despite interruptions caused by fog and late winter storms, Bagram-based	
ground attack aircraft flew multiple combat sorties in	
support of operations in eastern Afghanistan.	25X1 Independent Afghan Army Operations 25X1
	Afghan army units increased their role in combat
	operations during March in the vicinity of Jalalabad, 25X1
	Gardeyz, and Herat.
Soviet forces continued operations around Qandahar	Soviet involvement was limited to perimeter security and air, artillery, and advisory support. The
city in early March	Kabul regime has come under pressure this year to
	play a more independent role, and the combat sweeps 25X1
The inability of the Soviets and	during March are the largest yet.
Afghan regime to bring the city under control has been a major frustration for them. According to the	the Afghan units evidently encountered no sustained
US Embassy in Kabul, the Soviets strafed sections o	
the city during March and subsequently conducted	military probably is not ready to assume a leading
house-to-house searches.	role in ground operations.
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	25 April 1986 25X

Insurgents Resurgent During March, insurgent forces pressed several Afghan army garrisons. The US Embassy in Kabul reported that the Afghan army garrison at Ali Kheyl was surrounded in late March and that the regime sent reinforcements to bolster the defenses of the garrison. The Embassy also indicates that insurgents increased harasement of Afghan army and border garrisons along the northern boundary of the Spin Gar mountains in Nangarthar Province. In mid-March, Panjsher Valley insurgents launched attacks against Soviet and Afghan garrisons at Anawa, Bazarak, and Rokheh but with inconclusive results, according to US Embassy sources. In addition, an Afghan column was attacked near Gardeyz on Ic March resulting in the capture of 35 Afghan troops. The insurgents' success in shooting down as many as five helicopters in the Kabul area evidently has been disconcerting to the Soviets. Other attempts noted during the month to thwart the guerrilla surface-to- air missile threat included having M1-24 Hind D helicopters fly low-altitude escorts for vulnerable Soviet air transport aircraft using Kabul airport.			
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